

CLAIMS

1. A method of processing textiles articles which comprises two stages one of which is washing, cleaning drying or pressing of the articles and the other of which is the use of steam for the killing of, and/or the de naturing of allergens of, mites in textile articles.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stages take place in sequence.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the stages take place in a tumble drier machine and the stages are tumble drying the articles, and the use of steam for the killing of, and/or the de naturing of allergens of, mites in textile articles.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the tumble drier machine is a domestic tumble drier which has the facility to effect the steam treatment.
5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the stages take place in a dry cleaning establishment, and the stages are dry cleaning and the use of steam for the killing of, and/or the de naturing of allergens of, mites in textile articles.
6. The method according to claim 5, where in the steam treatment is effected after a dry cleaning process.
7. The method according to claim 6, where in the steam treatment process is effected in a tumble drying machine.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the stream treatment process comprises injecting steam into the textile articles whilst they are being tumbled.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the steam is injected into the textile articles for a short burst.
10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the short burst is for a period in the order of 10 seconds.
11. The method according to claim 9, wherein after the short burst, the textile articles are tumbled in the presence of the steam for a delay interval.
12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the delay interval is in the region of 20 seconds.
13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the cycle of short burst and delay interval is repeated.
14. The method according to claim 5, wherein the textile articles are heated for a pre heat period before being steam treated.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the pre heat period is approximately 10 minutes.
16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the textile articles are pre heated to a temperature in the region of 60-65 degrees centigrade.
17. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stages take place simultaneously.

18. The method according to claim 6 or any claim dependent thereon, wherein the steam cleaning and the use of steam for the killing of, and/or the de naturing of allergens of, mites in textile article stakes place in a steaming tunnel.
19. The method according to claim 1 and 2, wherein the use of steam for the killing of, and/or the de naturing of allergens of, mites in textile articles takes place in a steaming tunnel.
20. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the use of steam for the killing of, and/or the de naturing of allergens of, mites in textile article stakes place in a pressing former.
21. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stage comprising the use of steam for the killing of, and/or the de naturing of allergens of, mites in textile articles, is carried out on the articles whilst they are at ambient temperature.